

From: Matt Wahlin
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 12:25am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this in response to an article I saw in the San Jose, California Mercury News which stated that public comments regarding the proposed Microsoft antitrust settlement are still welcome at this email address. If this is not the case, I apologize in advance for any inconvenience this message may cause.

Regarding this proposed antitrust settlement- I heartily disagree with the position taken by the current administration in pursuing this settlement. As a professional with almost 25 years' experience in the software field and with software products (and product development) in general, I feel that this settlement is bad for the American public and bad for the competitive business environment in our country (and the world).

Over the years, I have seen Microsoft's anti-competitive business practices squash competition from small companies trying to develop new ideas and technology without the benefit of the resources that a monopolistic company, such as Microsoft, can bring to bear. In addition, I have frequently seen examples of Microsoft taking advantage of their Operating System monopoly for personal computers to crush competition by effectively locking out users from using other, better products with their System. Although Netscape, and their browser, is one of the more highly visible examples of Microsoft using a number of different aspects of their Operating System monopoly to create an unfair advantage for Microsoft's own product in the marketplace, this is FAR from the only example.

I feel that the original remedy recommended by the judge in the first Microsoft antitrust trial was a good remedy and an appropriate example of the kind of actions required to curb Microsoft's monopolistic power in the marketplace. Creating separate businesses from some of Microsoft's more profitable product lines, and forcing them to compete fairly with all other businesses (including the other pieces split off from Microsoft) would create an environment far more conducive to creativity and productivity, and would benefit the consumers enormously. The current, proposed settlement would do little toward this end- in fact it would validate Microsoft's monopolistic business strategies and stifle innovation in software development. The arrogant attitude displayed by Microsoft executives during the trial is more than enough evidence to show that they have every intention of continuing these anti-competitive practices. This would make my job harder and the lives of all consumers less than they could be.

Please reconsider the current, ill-advised settlement proposal, for the sake of all software developers and all consumers.

Thank you,
-Matthew W. Wahlin
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